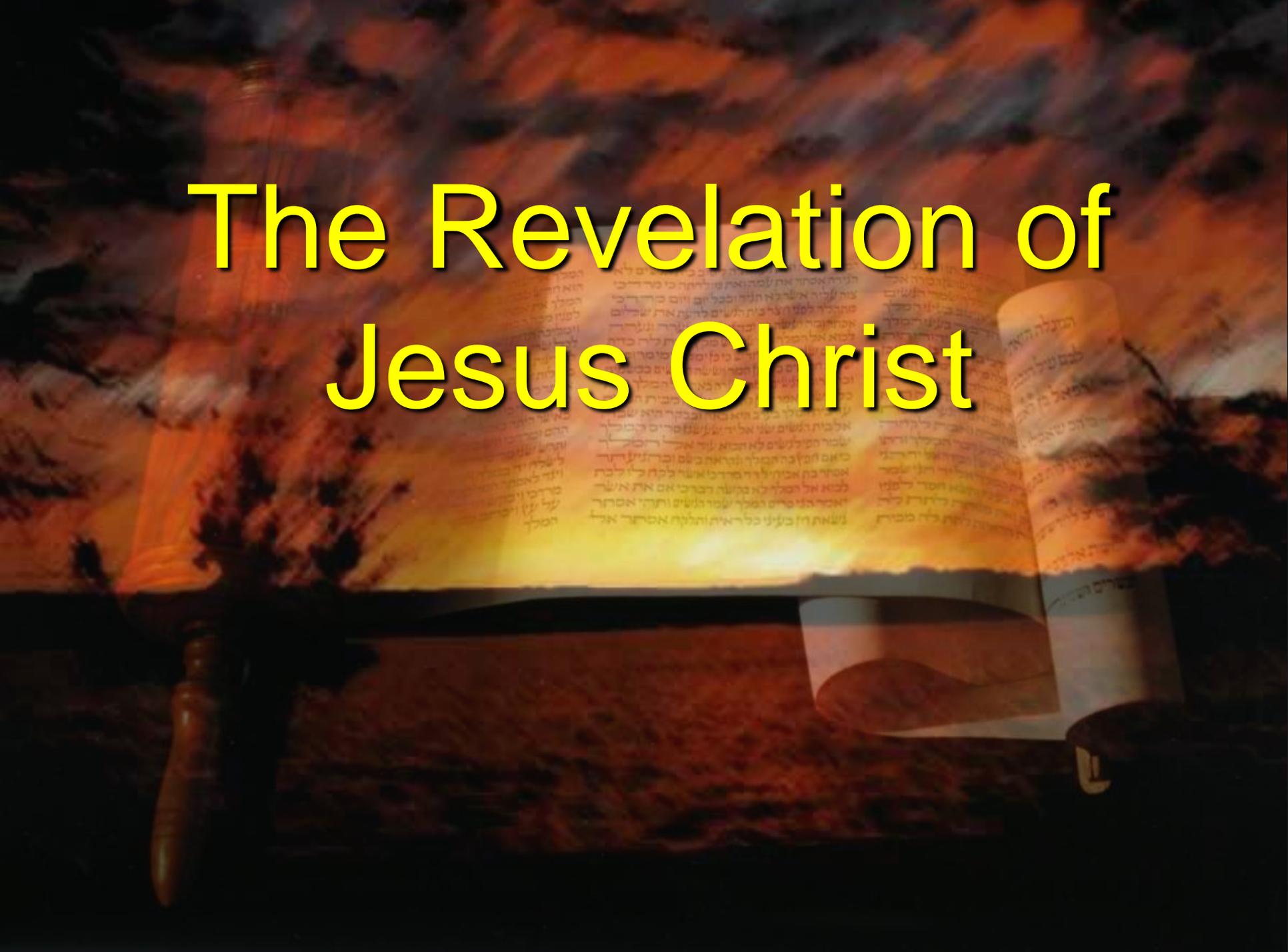


The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An open scroll with Hebrew text is the central focus, illuminated by a warm, golden light. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a cave or a hidden place. The overall atmosphere is one of mystery and revelation.

Revelation Chapter 12

- One of the most important chapters in the Bible
- It shows the importance of Israel in God's plan & exposes the root of anti-Semitism
 - And silences any argument of the replacement theologian!
- It unmasks Satan and foretells his destiny
- It sheds light on all the battles and conflicts in the Old Testament
 - Something that many are confused about!

The History & Career of Satan

- Lucifer (meaning 'light bearer') was 'the anointed cherub' (Isaiah 14:12)
 - Possibly the most powerful angel
- He was responsible for the worship in Heaven,
- In all probability he orchestrated the worship to God when the earth was being created!
 - See Job 38:7
- So how did he end up becoming the embodiment of evil?

The History & Career of Satan

- As the angelic host watched on as God created, the questions must have been whispered...
 - This is amazing! I wonder who it is for?
 - Who will be given the job of ruling over all of this wonderful creation?”
- Lucifer himself also thought:
 - *“To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?”* (Esther 6:6).

The History & Career of Satan

- But then God unveiled the biggest bombshell in all of eternity!
- MANKIND!
 - Created in HIS image!
- Lucifer was no longer the pinnacle of God's creation
- It quickly became clear that this stunning new world God had just spent the last 5 days creating, was to be given to Man!!

The History & Career of Satan

- At that moment, something happened that seemed utterly impossible;
- It was something so catastrophic that it would later require an unimaginable price to be paid to remedy the situation,
 - and even then would leave a tragic scar on the whole of eternity.
- Lucifer – the light bearer – rebelled against God!

The History & Career of Satan

- Isaiah 14:12-15 records that Lucifer, already overflowing with envy and hatred for the Man who had been created in God's image, said in his heart
- *“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the [angels] of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High”* (Isaiah 14:13-14).

The History & Career of Satan

- Lucifer had not been created '*like the Most High*', but Adam had.
- So if he had not been given it, he would take it by force!
- He would take the wonderful earth he thought he rightfully deserved, destroying this Man in the process!
 - He would not allow man to become the Light bearer
- Then he would be exulted and the other angels would worship him!

The History & Career of Satan

- Lucifer's nature now changed in an instant,
- His name effectively changing to 'Satan'
– which means 'opponent',
- For now he had become – not God's opponent – but Man's.
- *“And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him”*

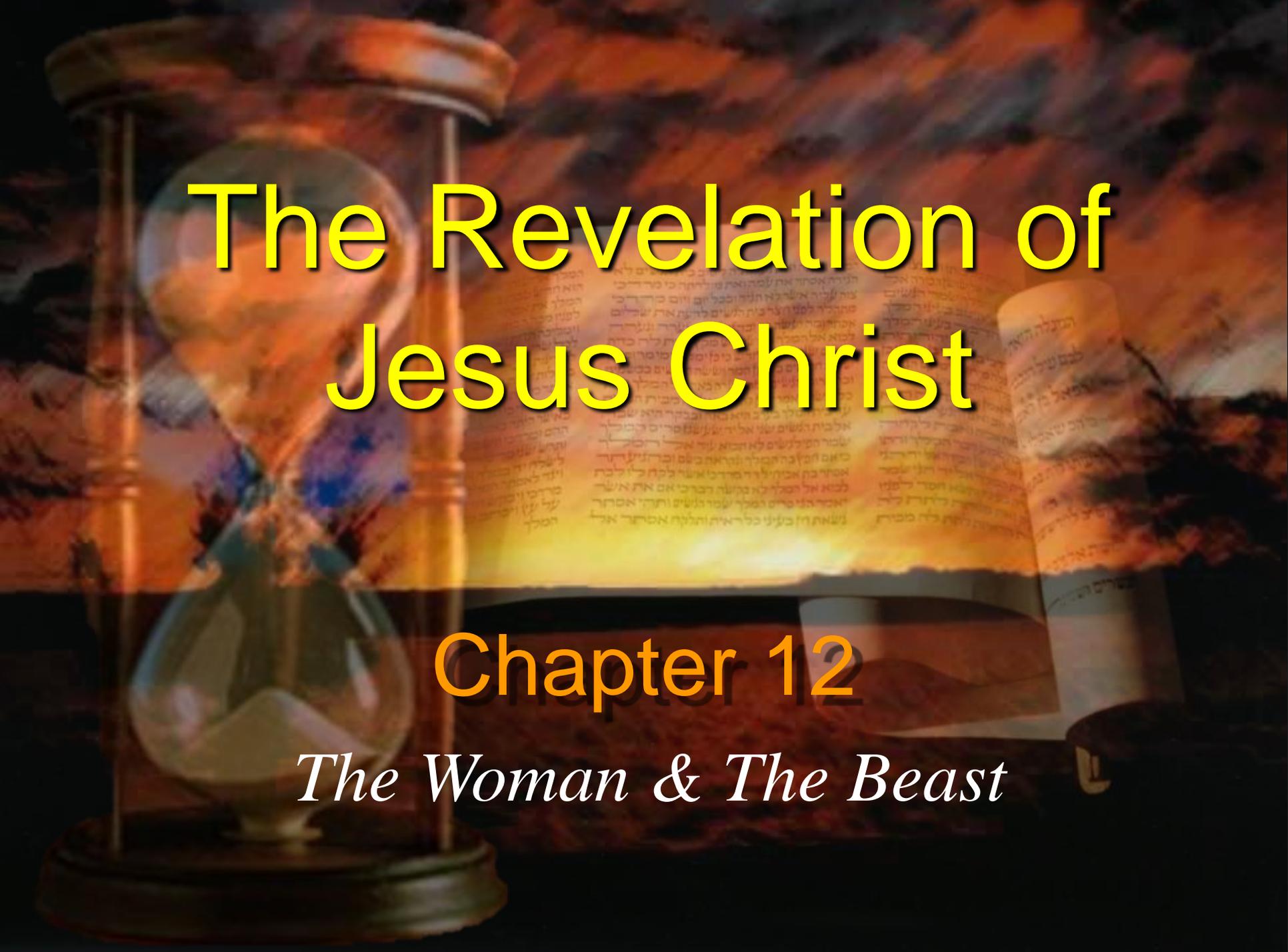
(Esther 6:13).

The Need for Israel

- Satan took 1/3rd of the angels with him when he rebelled against God,
- For the last 6000 years of human history he has been hell-bent on one thing:
- The destruction of man by whatever means possible.
- But the man he was most intent on destroying was not the first Adam, but the Second Adam – Jesus Christ.

The Need for Israel

- God pronounced judgment on Satan in Gen 3:15 – which he is desperate to avoid!
- In essence, the whole account of the Old Testament is the story of how God engineered and ensured the safe arrival of the Second Adam...
 - the Seed of the Woman,
- ...and how Satan
 - the Dragon
- ...desperately tried to prevent it!

An hourglass with a scroll of text in the background. The hourglass is on the left, and the scroll is on the right. The background is a dark, textured surface with a warm, orange glow. The text on the scroll is in Hebrew or a similar ancient script.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 12

The Woman & The Beast

¹ And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Revelation 12:1

- The word 'wonder' is the Greek word 'semeion' meaning 'sign'
- Jesus 'sent and signified' this Revelation, i.e. rendered it into signs (Rev 1:1).
- Our challenge is to now see what this sign is pointing to
 - because that's what signs do!

¹ And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Revelation 12:1

- The first thing to observe is that we have a woman and that she is clothed.
- The clothing is not the woman, but she is under the covering of the clothing.
- So who is this woman? ‘Mystical’ Eve
 - the line that started with Eve and came down through the generations and from which the Messiah came.

¹ And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Revelation 12:1

- The sign should point us straight to Genesis 37:9-11...
- The woman is clothed with Israel!
- Clothing is given (in part) for protection
- Israel were to be the protective clothing for the woman

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Revelation 12:2

- The Old Testament is the story of this Woman 'travailing in birth' waiting for the Child to come.
- Right from the start, Satan was 'hell bent' on stopping this Child coming and tried everything possible to prevent it.

The Travail

- **Cain killing Able:**
- This was Satan's 1st attempt after the fall to destroy the Seed of the Woman. In all probability, Satan at that time may well have thought Abel was the Seed.

The Travail

- **The Nephelim and Giants of Gen 6:**
- This was a Satanic plan to corrupt the human race, so that there would be no pure Adamic stock remaining.
- It was to cleanse the earth from this 'infection' that God sent the flood
 - Noah & family were the only ones left 'perfect in their generations' (i.e. genetically pure).

The Travail

- **The 2nd wave of Nephelim:**
- Notice how this 'invasion' only centered around Israel?
- This was because of the promise to Shem (and the later covenant with Abraham).
- Satan now knew the Seed would be one of Shem's descendants, so focused his attention on that geographical region.

The Travail

- **Nimrod trying to establish a One World Government at Babel (Babylon):**
- Not only would this would give Satan control of the world systems & therefore individuals, his real intention was to get mankind to unite against the Seed (ironically their only Saviour!).
- Satan failed with this first attempt, but will succeed the second time around – only to then be defeated by Jesus.

The Travail

- **False Religion:**
- Babel failed as a world Government so Satan set about corrupting the truth about the promised Seed and introduced false religions
 - many of which have retained the worship of mother and child (simply a distortion of Eve and her Seed).
- These soon began to engulf the world. But now God called Abraham out of this idolatry to keep the line of the Seed separate

The Travail

- **Ishmael's contempt for Isaac:**
 - Their descendants have carried on a family feud until this day
- **Attempts on Jacob's Life:**
 - Jacob feared for his life with Esau, then later Laban.
- **Slavery in Egypt:**
 - Satan used the Egyptians to crush Israel

The Travail

- **The killing of the male babies in Egypt:**
 - This was another deliberate attempt to stop the Seed of the Woman coming.
- **The Wars of Israel:**
 - Critics love to attack Israel for their conquest of Canaan, yet the inhabitants were the remnants of the Nephelim. Had Israel had been destroyed, the Saviour could not have come!

The Travail

- **Many more attacks:**
 - Satan did not give up, and still hasn't.
- The numerous attempts to wipe out the Royal line (1 Samuel 19:10 / 2 Kings 11:2),
- The blood curse on Jeconiah (Jer 22:30),
- The Babylonian conquest,
- The hostility towards Nehemiah's attempts to rebuild Jerusalem following the Exile,
- ...and many more.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Revelation 12:3

- This great red dragon is identified in v9 as Satan
- 7 symbolises completeness
- 10 speaks of government
- Satan (through Antichrist) will set himself up as the head of the world's governments

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Revelation 12:4

- **1/3rd of the angels rebelled with Satan**
 - **If they could not prevent the birth of the Seed, he wanted to ‘devour’ Him as soon as He was born, and this is seen dramatically in the attempt to kill of the babies of Bethlehem.**

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Revelation 12:5

- The Woman, now in the protection of the nation of Israel, gave birth to the Messiah
- Despite Satan's best efforts at Calvary, three days later his worst nightmare came true!
 - and in fact by orchestrating Jesus' death Satan became a murderer, ref Genesis 9:6

Earth's Rightful Ruler

- ¹ Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
- ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,
- ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Psalm 2:1-9

Earth's Rightful Ruler

- 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
- 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.
- 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.
- 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psalm 2:1-9

Earth's Rightful Ruler

⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Psalm 2:1-9

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Revelation 12:5

Caught up to Heaven

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11

Caught up to Heaven

- 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
- 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:20-21

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Revelation 12:6

- We now jump from the Ascension to the Tribulation (omitting the Church age)
- At the mid point (3 ½ years) Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and they will be forced to flee
 - As prophesied by Jesus...

Israel's Flight

- 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
- 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Matthew 24:15-22

Israel's Flight

- 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:
- 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.
- 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Matthew 24:15-22

Israel's Flight

- 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:
- 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matthew 24:15-22

A Place Prepared?



A Place Prepared?



Fulfilled Prophecy

¹⁴ Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir.

Genesis 33:14

- Jesus will go to aid Israel in Edom, and return from there after delivering them
 - See Isaiah 63:1-4
- This will follow their calling out for Him

Israel's Cry

¹⁵ I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

Hosea 5:15

- Israel crying out for deliverance is a prerequisite for the Second Coming
 - If Satan can destroy Israel first...

- 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
- 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Revelation 12:7-8

- Michael is always seen as the protector of Israel. (cf. Daniel 12:1).
 - Satan may well have been of this rank prior to his fall.

The Mighty Fallen

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Luke 10:18

The Mighty Fallen

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isaiah 14:12

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:9

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:10

- Beware of those who spend their time accusing the brethren.
 - There is a necessary place for discernment...
 - But we are called to love each other
 - If we can't love our brothers who we can see...

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11

- More Christians have been martyred in the last decade than in the last century
- More have been martyred in the last century than in the 1900 years before that – combined
- Every hour c.12 Christians are martyred

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Revelation 12:12

- **Woe indeed!**
- **Short time = 3 ½ years**

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Revelation 12:13-14

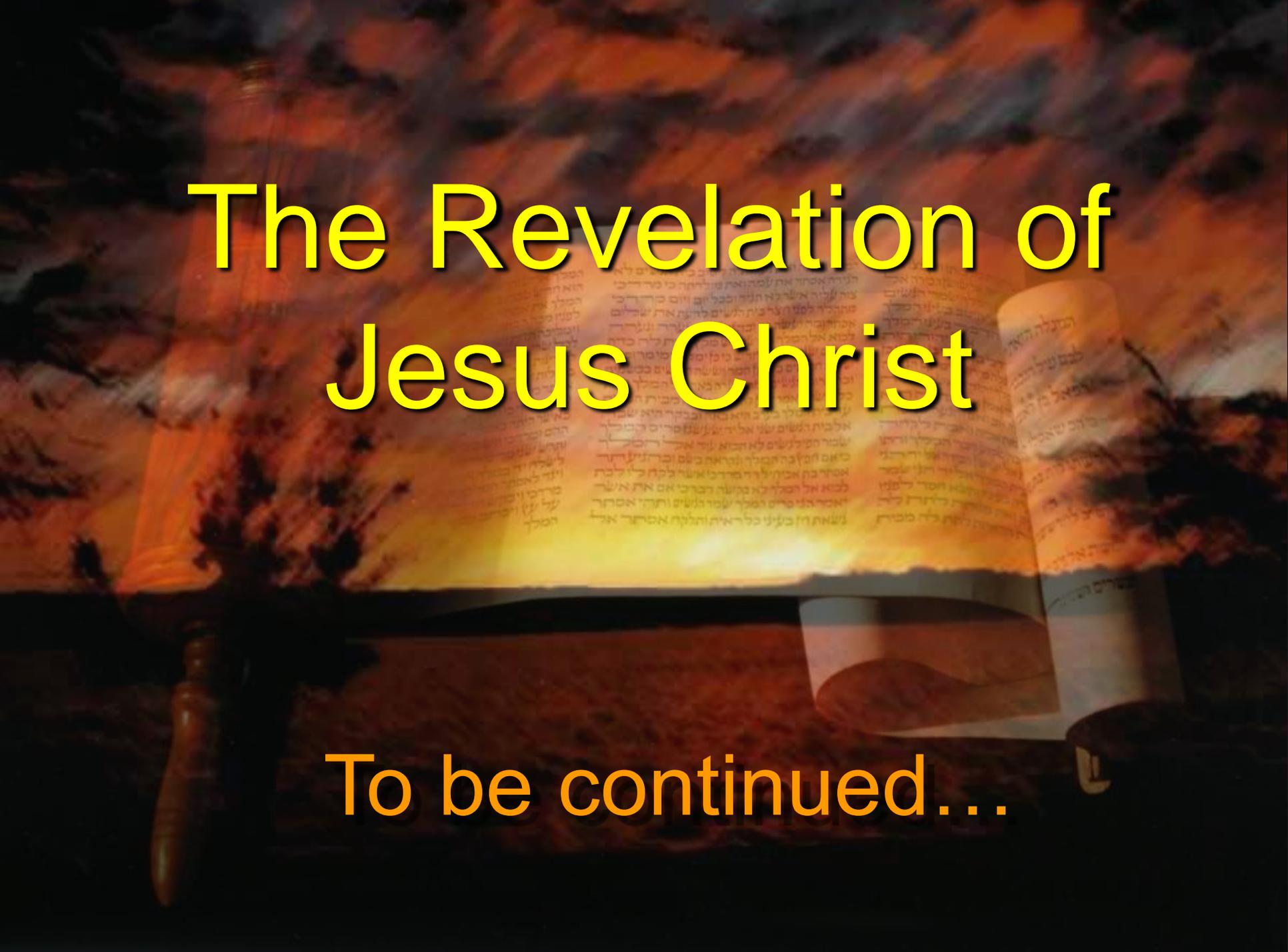
- 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.
- 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Revelation 12:15-16

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:17

- The church has been raptured
- The 144,000 have been 'caught up'
- Israel has now fled into Edom
- So Satan now targets the last few remaining Christians (who have been recently converted)

An open scroll with Hebrew text, illuminated by a warm, golden light. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a cave or a hidden place. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and ancient.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

To be continued...